

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

Vol. XIV

BENTON, MO., FEBRUARY 13, 1915.

No. 3.

TRUTH COMING OUT.

Industrial Relations Commission is Uncovering Labor Conditions.

The most alarming fact today is that the vast majority of people refuse to believe the awful conditions that exist in this country, especially in the mining and industrial centers. The trouble lies in the fact that the news service of the country is controlled by Big Business and the truth is not permitted to reach the people. There is a new service springing up that tells the truth. But this service is weak and must fight for its existence every day of its life. Yet it is growing steadily. This service told of the outrage committed by the so-called law and order element during the various labor troubles in Colorado, West Virginia, Michigan and other points, where working men, women and children were shot down like dogs for no other reason than they refused to spring for wages they would not keep soul and body together.

What has your Metropolitan or home paper told you about these outrages? What have you heard from the pulpits—except, perhaps, an endorsement? Or from the old party spellbinders? And where else are you to go for information?

However, the burning of women and children in the Ludlow tent colony was the straw that broke the camels' back. This new news service got the facts before enough people that congress had to take notice. A commission was appointed to investigate labor conditions in this country and strange to say, this commission has no white-wash brush. It is going after the facts. And the facts are coming out just as told in the Kicker and other labor papers.

The Kicker told you that in the territory where these labor troubles occur the so-called public officials are the cringing tools of the capitalists; that thugs and criminals are sworn in as deputy sheriffs or into the militia and turned loose on the workers. Let me here introduce Sheriff J. B. Farr, of Huerfano county, Colorado, testifying before the Industrial Relations Commission concerning deputy sheriffs:

Chairman Walsh: Who paid for these deputies?

Sheriff Farr: I don't know that. The county of Huerfano never paid for them.

Q. Did you ever hear from them where they got their money?

A. They were paid; I didn't pay them.

Q. You never inquired?

A. No, sir.

Q. Would you turn your office over to a private party without knowing?

A. I supposed that the coal operators were paying for them.

Q. You know that the coal operators were paying for them, do you not?

A. I don't know for certain, but that is my belief, and I am really satisfied but I don't know it; never saw the checks.

Q. Did you ever ask any officer of the coal companies whether or not they were paying them?

A. I did not. At the beginning of this strike, Mr. Mattison of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company came to me after the strike was called and asked me if I would appoint or send to the different mines some deputy sheriffs to guard the property. That is about the only conversation I had with him and I proceeded to send the men out.

Q. Were all these men armed?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who furnished the arms?

A. They were furnished by the coal companies.

Q. And didn't you ever talk to any officer of a coal mining company as to whether or not these men were being paid?

A. That was my general understanding that they were being paid.

Q. Did you know how much they were paying them?

A. My understanding is, it was \$3.50 a day furnished; that was my knowledge.

Q. Who told you that?

A. Mr. Mattison of the Fuel company.

Q. So Mr. Mattison of the Coal company did tell you he was paying these men and how much they were paying them.

A. That was at the beginning, but then I refreshed my memory.

Q. Now, do I understand that you did not make any examination into the character of these men?

A. I did not, sir.

Q. And their qualifications. They could have got so far as you are concerned a murderer—a red-handed murderer—and given him one of your commissions?

A. So far as I know.

Q. But that was left to the coal company?

A. So far as I know.

Q. And the arms got the men was left to the company?

A. The arming of the men was either left to the men themselves or to the company.

Q. And you just turned loose 326 of them on your community, and that was before there was

any call for the militia or any cause for trouble. Did you not think that might cause disturbance in your county?

A. They were not turned loose. These men were stationed at certain properties to take care of them?

Q. Did you have charge of them yourself?

A. To a certain extent.

Q. To what extent did you have charge of them?

A. They were to report to me of any violence.

Q. How many reports did you get from Epifanio Castro?

A. I don't know the man.

Q. Or Joseph Ancheater?

A. I don't know him?

Q. Fernandez Atencio?

A. I don't know as I got any.

Q. J. B. Arizon?

A. Never got any report from him.

Q. Felix Abeyta?

A. Never got any.

Q. Well did you ever get any from any of the Martinezes you have on here—you have ten on this page. Did you ever get a report from them?

A. I couldn't say sir.

Concerning the Ludlow massacre, in which two women and eleven children were smothered and burned to death, Mrs. Margaret Dominick told the commission that having been ejected from their homes, some 300 families had taken up their residences in a tent colony which was established just outside of Ludlow.

She said that on the day of the battle, an armored train manned by nine guards, had been sent to Ludlow from Hastings over the Colorado and Southern road.

The tent colony, she said, was thrown into a panic by the explosion of a steam boiler by the militia. Rifle fire followed, she said, and finally the machine gun on Water Tower hill and the armored train opened fire on the tent colony.

"When the fighting began," said Mrs. Dominick, in a very cold, hard tone, "we all went into the cellar under our tents. We could hear the shooting and I—I was afraid."

I took some of the children into the far corner and told them to cover themselves up. It was terrible and I simply did not know what was going on.

"And then they set fire to the tents. The smoke soon filled the hole in which we were. I choked and choked. And then we heard the soldiers cursing and knew that our people were being killed."

Rich and poor alike are drawn before this commission to testify, and it is wonderful how Socialists in their views the big capitalists become when talking to men who KNOW. They denounce over-work, unemployment, low wages, and other like evils, just like a fool Socialist. Said Daniel Guggenheim of the Smelter and other trusts:

"They may call me a Socialist, but these are my views. I favor legislation providing that the federal government and the state shall help the unemployed man to find employment, and that if that shall see that when he is ill and incapacitated, he shall be properly cared for."

Then along comes Henry Ford, the automobile man, and says that all the workers need is a chance, and that by so doing he would guarantee to empty penitentiaries and make good citizens of the inmates.

Mr. Ford started the industrial world last year by fixing a minimum wage of \$5 a day for his employees and letting them share in the profits. Mr. Ford is happy over the result. He takes so-called criminals, and down and outs, or anything, and makes good citizens of them. Before the Industrial Relations Commission he said:

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"We will guarantee to take every man out of Sing Sing and make a man out of him."

"No man can bring up a family and hope to own a home on the ordinary rate of wages."

"We cannot expect a man to give us his best efforts when he is in debt and has not enough to keep his family on."

"We believe it is better, wiser and more just to make many men more comfortable than to make a few very rich."

"The sooner men can be taught that labor is just as much an asset, and more, than machinery and buildings, the sooner labor will be properly recognized."

"I have very little use for charities or philanthropies as such."

A FARMER WAKING UP.
Sikeston, Mo., R2, Feb. 4.
Dear Editor.—If you will answer the following questions for me I will be very much obliged to you. I am a farm tenant and haven't been paying much attention to things. I want to get in the light. That's the reason we tenants have to keep our noses to the grindstone:

1. Who is our state representative?
2. Our state senator?
3. Our U. S. representative?
4. Our U. S. senator?
5. Who to write to for congressional records? Are they for sale? Are they issued daily, monthly, or at the close of the session?
I want to keep track of our congressmen and know what bills they vote for or against; whether the bills are for my benefit or the other fellow. Yours truly,
FRED NELSON.

Here is a farmer who has been probably voting all of his mature life and never knew what for. He has been politically doped—just as most of them have been. But he is waking up—just as hundreds and thousands of others are. He is beginning to wonder what it means. And nothing gives him greater pleasure than turning on the light in dark places. I hope that other farmers and workingmen will follow his lead and put to the Kicker such questions as they do not understand.

No matter how little education you may have, or how poorly you may write, I will figure out the things you want to know and explain them to the best of my ability. No one is to blame for his ignorance. There are too many powerful forces at work that seek to keep the masses in ignorance. And these forces leave nothing undone to put out any ray of light that may attempt to shine.

Mr. Nelson is not ignorant in the commonly accepted sense. He writes a good hand and uses good language. He shows evidence of having received a good common school education. But he is in the dark as to how he is relieved of the wealth he produces. And the sources from which he seeks information will not relieve that blindness. But when he finds no light there, he will probably seek elsewhere. I will answer his questions:

1. J. D. Bowman. His home is at Oron and his present address is Jefferson City, Mo.
2. Henry Cain, Bloomfield, Mo. Present address, Jefferson City.
3. Jos. J. Russell, Charleston. Present address, Washington, D. C.
4. Wm. J. Stone, St. Louis, and James B. Reed, Kansas City, Mo. Present address, Washington, D. C.
5. The Congressional Record is printed daily during sessions of congress only. The subscription price depends on the length of the session. For the present session it was \$1.50—or about 50 cents per month. Each senator has 88 copies and each representative has 60 copies furnished free to be sent to such friends as he may wish to have them.

But I would not advise anyone seeking knowledge to waste time on the Congressional Record. I get it every day and throw it into the waste pile without taking the wrapper off. If you want an arm-full, Mr. Nelson, come in and get them. A man in Michigan last year got the same fever. He got a copy and he began a study of the Congress-

ional Record. He is now in an insane asylum.

When I first received the Record I tried to get something out of it. But I couldn't. Aside from a lot of hot air speeches that are often never delivered, but sent out during political campaigns to fool the Rubes, there is nothing to it but a lot of parliamentary junk that it would take a 5 to 4 decision of a supreme court to unravel.

Don't waste time on the Congressional Record. If you are really seeking light, get three of your neighbors to go in with you and send one dollar to the Appeal to Reason, Girard, Kansas, and each of you will get the paper for 40 weeks. If at the end of that time you do not agree that you have all learned \$40 worth, come to me and I will return the dollar. Or, if you will send the dollar and the names and addresses to me, I will get the paper for you. The price is fifty cents per year, but in clubs of four, 25 cents for 40 weeks.

What party does that member of the legislature belong to?
"I don't know," replied the lobbyist. "I'm one of several parties who are bidding for him."

A "RUBE" EDITOR.
When Gov. Major got ready to name the Missouri newspaper men to the Press Congress at the Pan-American Exposition he overlooked the fact that he looked like a dirty deuce to the big towns, and that the small cities and the country districts put him over the plate. He named the delegates from St. Louis, St. Joseph, Kansas City, Springfield and Sedalia. Poplar Bluff Citizen.

Shucks! That editor don't know "straight up" about politics, yet he is trying to lead somebody and explain all about it. Why should the governor pay any attention to cross-roads newspapers? They get their ideas (?) from the city press, and when the governor sprinkles salt on the tails of the city editor, it leaks thru on ye cross-roads scribe.

That is one explanation of why YOU now look like a "dirty deuce." Another reason is that before elections a big, juicy plum in the shape of constitutional amendments publications will be dangled before ye cross-roads editors. None of you will know which one in each county will be selected by the secretary of state to feast on that plum; but all of you will pound heavily for the party in the hope that lightning will strike YOU.

A month before the election the plum is handed around, and if you were overlooked, it is too late to squeal and take back the nice rot you have been getting off in the interest of "the party." It would not look good. By this method every party organ is held in line until it is too late to kick.

Furthermore, state politicians only look after state papers. The court house politicians of each county are expected to, and do, look after the home papers via the court house printing and announcement fee route.

The Poplar Bluff editor should take a few lessons in "practical politics," so that he may understand the whys and wherefores. Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

GOING-GONE!
From the Mlbwa See Leader.

The homes of the Danbury hatters will be sold to satisfy the judgment of the federal court against them under the anti-trust law.

The hatters did not organize a hat trust. They were not the owners of hat factories. Instead, they worked for wages in the factories of the owners. Their offenses consisted in refusing to patronize factory owners that refused to employ them at the same rate of wages and under the same conditions that obtained in union factories.

If the Danbury hatters had organized a trust they would have been immune from the penalties of the anti-trust law. It is true that the law was not designed by its authors to apply to workingmen and their organizations, but the supreme court supplied the omission.

The hatters have lost their homes. The savings of a life time have been confiscated. But it is not the first nor will it be the last judicial crime against labor.

It was a workman—a carpenter—whose crucifixion for "stirring up the people" has made the cross a holy thing. The gallows has not yet been sanctified, though countless thousands of victims have dangled from it for having dared resist oppression. Some day it may come into its own as one of humanity's cherished emblems. Democracy has not yet paid the debt it owes to the hangman's noose.

The hatters are in a noble company. They have lost their homes, but they have won the immortality of martyrdom.

THE MACHINE.
Modern inventions are wonderful—and cruel under the existing order of things. While these machines do the work of man, they do not help the great mass. Only the men who own the machines are benefited. The men who formerly did the work of the machine can look for another job—and just keep on looking. There are now too many of these machines, hence there are fewer jobs than job-seekers.

The machine has not only invaded the ranks of common labor, but skilled labor as well. An important personage about a county seat town is the man who works in an abstract office. Where business is good several very smart young men are employed. But you would insult these if you spoke of them as working men. They never look for a job. They "accept positions." They "resign." Anyway, that is how the kept press puts it.

A machine is now on the market which takes a photographic copy of the record in two minutes. To do this "thing" would require hours. How long do you think the clerk in an abstract office will be able to compete with this machine? One has already been installed in Cape county.

SOCIALISM AND EQUALITY
By John Spargo

No Socialist wants to pull down the strong to the level of the weak, the wise to the level of the less wise. Socialism does not imply pulling anybody down. It does not imply a great plain of humanity with no mountain peaks of genius or character. It is not opposed to natural inequalities, but to man-made inequalities. Its only protest is against these artificial inequalities, products of man's ignorance and greed. It does not aim to pull down the highest, but to lift up the lowest; it does not want to put a load of disadvantage upon the strong and gifted, but it wants to take off the heavy burdens of disadvantage which keep others from rising. In a word, socialism implies nothing more than giving every child born into the world equal opportunities, so that only the inequalities of nature remain.

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Stick to the unmuzzled Kicker.

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

Hayti, Herald.—There is great amount of money in the banks of the United States than was ever known, but it cannot be obtained for use by small country merchants or country borrowers. It is tied up and the big banks know why. Business is at a stand but large manufacturers tell us the future looks bright; whole-sale houses say the spring trade looks up bright, and they are looking forward to heavy orders; the president has informed us that all is well—that what we think is depression is merely psychological effect. We cannot see a bright future as these gentlemen do. If we had the same sense they view things through a heavy bank account, a full stock, an overplus of manufactured goods, we might see different. We are looking straight at the object lesson in front of us—bulging banks, large stocks of merchandise on the wholesale markets, a surplus of manufactured goods, psychology, etc., we are confronted with millions of people out of work, country merchants trying to borrow money, the tenant farmer trying to make arrangements to furnish himself and family the necessities of life while he plants this year's crop. The cry of poverty is going up as it never did before. Men and women are hungry who never knew want before.

Portageville, Missouri.—Sheriff Conrad Kimes was called to Linda, Tuesday, to quell the riotous acts of some of the white men in the neighborhood two miles below Linda. He went with J. F. Duncan blood hounds to trail the men who shot into a negro cabin and succeeded in running out the blacks whom they did not want there. Four negro men and a woman were in the cabin that was badly torn up by pistol and shotgun bullets. The dogs tracked one of the negroes to the sheriff's place. The sheriff put the negro in a white man's coat and a white man's hat and took them to jail. After the riot about fifty negroes in a steamer Clyde, when it landed at Stewart, and fled from the country.

Formington, News.—Think of threshing wheat in midwinter! That is exactly what will be happening in that settlement in this county the first pretty days that happens. It is this way. Last fall on account of the general scarcity of feed and the low price of wheat the Deering brothers, who operate the big A. K. Harris farm, and John C. Crow decided they would feed their wheat instead of threshing it and placing it on the market. Not having needed it yet for feed and the price having advanced to such a high figure they decided it would pay them to thresh and sell it. Wheat is now bringing \$1.40 a bushel on the local market and it may go even higher.

Pemisot Arpas.—From January 17 to 31, a period of fifteen days, Mrs. J. H. Marshall made and sold twenty-four pounds of butter at thirty cents per pound from two cows, in addition to the sale of thirty-six gallons of milk at ten cents per gallon. She sold, also, seven dozen eggs at thirty-five cents per dozen. The total for the two weeks is \$12.55. Besides the quantities sold, their table was supplied at all times with butter, milk and eggs. This is merely one instance going to show what farmers can do with their home products by careful handling and management.

Caruthersville, Democrat.—A rather dapper looking young fellow giving the name of J. Warren Brest, and claiming to be an expert typewriter repair man appeared in town Wednesday and began playing his trade. During the day he appeared at the office of Chas. W. Shields and persuaded Miss Viola Philpott to permit him to take a comparative new Underwood away to be repaired, and he hasn't been seen since at least by Miss Philpott.

Benton Register.—An astronomical event of such rare occurrence that those who know declare it will not take place again for thousands of years, is the fact that the moon will not "full" during February. There was a full moon the first of last month and there was another January 30.

Malden Merit.—John A. Wallace of Jonesboro, Ark., and Mrs. M. A. Cooke, of Forneft, Mo., were united in the holy bonds of wedlock in the parlors of the Palace Hotel, at Piggott, Ark., Wednesday, February 3. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace will make their home in Jonesboro.

A daughter of Thos. Allen, formerly of near Bleda but now a resident of Bell City, committed suicide at the Quinn hotel at Poplar Bluff, where she was employed. She was about 20 years old.

The O'Kelly drug store, a two-story brick at Portageville, was destroyed by fire.

Jackson Items.—Si Sheppard, the colored fellow from the Cape who a few weeks ago, during session of court, wanted to pay a visit to a friend in jail, and on whom a revolver was found, was brought before the bar on Monday and pleaded guilty to having carried a concealed weapon, and his punishment was fixed at \$100. It is safe to predict that at this point about 99 out of every 100 will figure that Si thereupon proceeded to jail to lay out said fine. Wrong! Si simply pulled out a pocket book, paid the fine and \$13.25 costs in cold cash. Such a procedure nearly took the breath of court room attendants.

Jackson Items.—Dean Ware, Gus Goehman and A. F. Drum, farmers living north of town, had put away a lot of oats in their barn last summer, for feeding purposes. Since then oats have followed wheat and corn in their dizzy climb on the ladder of prices, and the above named gentlemen concluded that their oats were too valuable for feeding purposes, as seed oats are worth about 80 cents per bushel. So they made arrangements with the Lees brothers of Jackson to take their separator from the shed where it was stored. On Friday five loads of oats were threshed. They yielded 163 bushels.

SOUNDS DIFFERENT.
Boise, Idaho, Feb. 8.—Believing that every man ought to have an opportunity to work for a living, and by the same token should be compelled to work for a living, Senator Bowman, the only Socialist member of the Idaho legislature, introduced an emergency employment act.

The bill proposes that the state shall furnish work for the unemployed within its borders on needed public improvements. Senator Bowman believes that with such a law in effect, Idaho would not be an unemployed problem.

An informed person will deny the seriousness of the problem of the unemployed; said the senator in speaking of his bill. "It is the nation's menace. It is the threat that scares up from beneath a and which makes the world a more dangerous place. Five million men and women are out of work in America now."

"I am not an alarmist, but I submit in all candor that when such an army—equal almost to the combined forces of the empire alliance now enthroned in our midst—engaged in shooting holes in the Christian civilization of Europe, we feel the pangs of hunger, cold, ragged, worn though it may be, it becomes a peril which we cannot ignore."

"A man destitute and out of a job—hungry, with no honorable or legitimate means of providing the food which nature compels him to have or die—soon becomes one of two things: A thief, an outlaw with his hand turned against his fellow men; or a coward who whines and whimpers as he huns you for a meal. In either event he is a menace to society, a racial curse."

"No able man has a right to eat unless he works. No able man has a right to assume to give him the price of a meal. The thing he does have a right to do is earn it for himself, and that is what I am trying to make him do by the provisions of my bill."

"My emergency employment bill is not a charity measure. It is a cold-blooded business proposition. There is no unadvised sentiment in it. I am simply tired of dividing what I earn with a lot of other people who are as able to work as I am, and hope the legislature, by making this bill a law, will put it up to the man who is out of a job to go to work and feed himself. I need what few dollars I earn to feed my own family—let the other fellow feed his."

"It is not strictly a partisan measure. Indeed it ought not to be. In empty stomachs do not pay much attention to political creeds. If the bill becomes a law it will benefit more Republicans and Democrats than Socialists, so I can hardly be accused of trying to legislate for Socialists' apoplexy."

"The reason I say that is because of personally gathered statistics. You see it this way: 'I've been pan-handled for meals 11 times on the streets of Boise since this session opened. When a man asks me for a meal I make it a rule to ask him his politics. When he tells me how he votes he gets his two bits and not before—however he always gets the quarter.' The 'stray vote' on these 11 unemployed was as follows: Four Democrats five Republicans and two Socialists—the Progressives and Prohibitionists were not voting."

"Will it pass?"

"Oh, I don't know—I'm going to vote to give the two Socialists a job, and if the majority members stay with their nine constituents mentioned a minute ago, it probably will."

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"It is not strictly a partisan measure. Indeed it ought not to be. In empty stomachs do not pay much attention to political creeds. If the bill becomes a law it will benefit more Republicans and Democrats than Socialists, so I can hardly be accused of trying to legislate for Socialists' apoplexy."

"The reason I say that is because of personally gathered statistics. You see it this way: 'I've been pan-handled for meals 11 times on the streets of Boise since this session opened. When a man asks me for a meal I make it a rule to ask him his politics. When he tells me how he votes he gets his two bits and not before—however he always gets the quarter.' The 'stray vote' on these 11 unemployed was as follows: Four Democrats five Republicans and two Socialists—the Progressives and Prohibitionists were not voting."

"Will it pass?"

"Oh, I don't know—I'm going to vote to give the two Socialists a job, and if the majority members stay with their nine constituents mentioned a minute ago, it probably will."

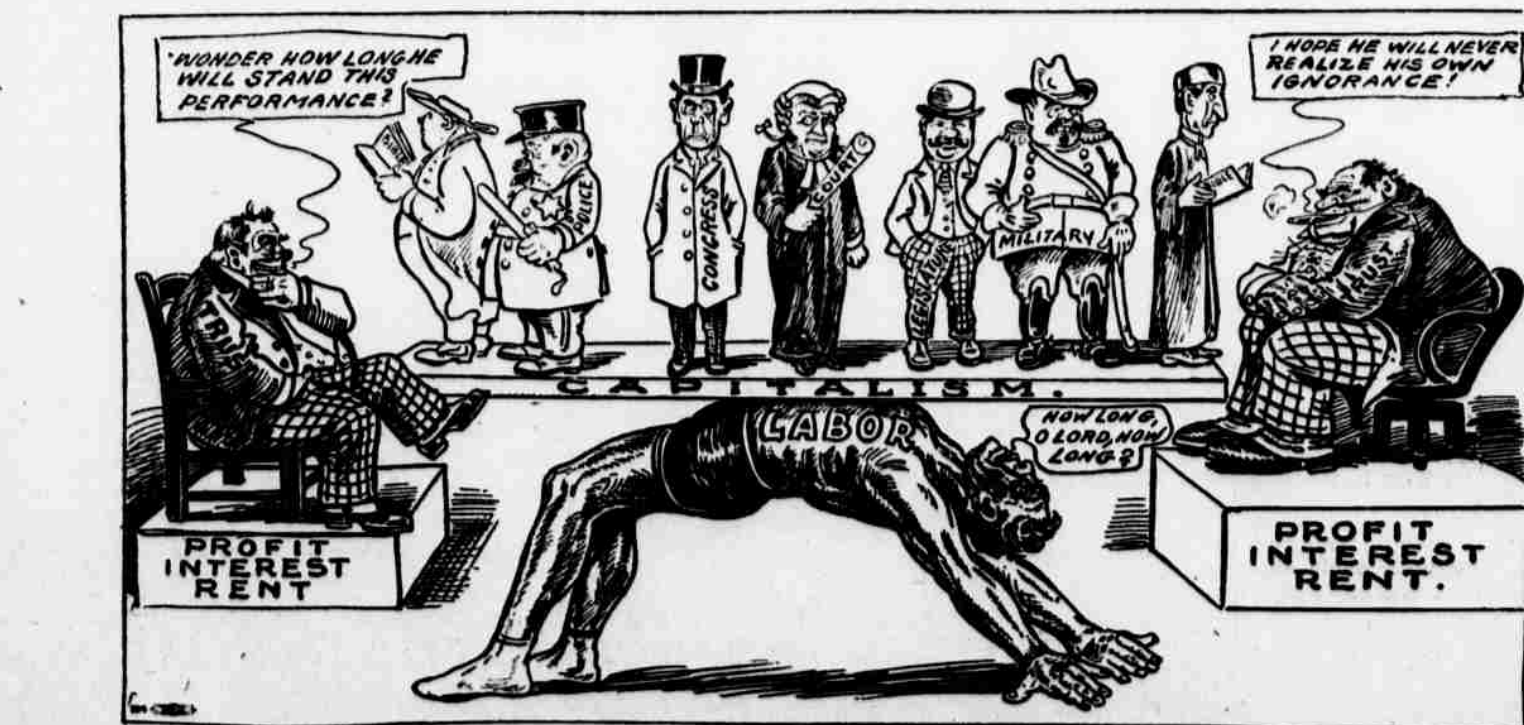
Under capitalism a wealthy idiot can ride in a motor car, while a capable workman rides on the breakbeam and votes to continue the outrage. Which is the real fool?

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Look Where Labor Is.

—From St. Louis Labor.